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marl and sulphur which, divided by small ridges of moss, ran in a northern and southern direction. During rainy weather the phenomenon must be seen from the low lands, and perhaps may still be visible from Fernando Po.

This discovery accounts for many detached reports. If, as the guides say, Mont Blanc smokes his pipe, then Ochema's pipe is not yet put out. The fiery mountain noticed by the old Punic navigator; the flames which the people of Bimbia described to Captain Allen as proceeding from the earth; the flashes seen by the cloth merchants at Camaroons River and by the people of Fernando Po, are now satisfactorily explained. I am pleased to announce to the Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain the addition of another volcano, not wholly extinct, to the list of those already known.

Nothing now remained but to descend and dine. On the next day we again separated. Mr. Mann ascended Albert Peak to remove his thermometer, whilst I returned to camp and finished the measurements. The event of the day was a hailstorm, the stones being of a size approaching to the inconvenient. I reached camp at 4 P.M., and my fellow-traveller arrived about an hour afterwards.

All of geographical interest being now ready, on the 31st of January, 1862, I left, not without regret, "Mann's Spring Camp," where so many peaceful happy days, without sand-flies or prickly heat, had sped. The Chief Botani received me with a civility bordering on servility. After leaving his village, however, a fellow in the lower districts presented a musket at my men, hoping to make them run away and cast their loads; they had learned, however, that the danger of being shot was problematical, but that the punishment of desertion was certain. Finally, on the 2nd of February, 1862, I once more saw the scattered bungalows of Victoria, where the kindly Mrs. Saker, who would not leave the place till our safe return, received me with all hospitality.

In concluding this hurried sketch of a highly-interesting region, I must express my regret that my instruments were wholly inadequate to the task. An aneroid is the poorest substitute for the mountain-barometer; I had no hygrometer; and even a clinometer was not at hand.

These few lines will, it is hoped, show the adaptability of the Camaroons Mountain for a sanitarium, a colony, or a convict station. A locale which shows every morning hoar-frost during the hot season in a region removed but 4° from the equator is not to be despised in the days when it is proposed to remove Calcutta to Simla. The Anglo-Scandinavian race cannot, it is true, thrive in all climates: but there are few, and those are valueless, in which choice of site would not make him a cosmopolite.

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12.—*Geological Notes on Campana, in the Province of Esmeraldas, Ecuador.* By JAMES WILSON.

[In communicating the following short letter from Mr. James Wilson, Sir Roderick Murchison makes this comment:—"Although Mr. Wilson (known to geologists and geographers by his explorations in California and Tropical Australia) has not been able to make any extensive surveys in Ecuador, where he has been labouring hard as the surveyor of a land company in the province of Esmeralda, yet the discoveries which he has made of the existence of the works of man in a stratum of mould beneath the sea-level, and covered by several feet of clay—the phenomenon being persistent for 60 miles—is of the highest interest to physical geographers and geologists. These facts seem to demonstrate that, within the human period, the lands on the coast of Central America were depressed and submerged, and that after the accumulation of marine clays above the terrestrial relics the whole coast was elevated to its present position."]

"25th April, 1862.

"DEAR SIR RODERICK,—I fear I am now nearly lost to your memory, in that, although sojourning in an interesting country, I have not sent a single line to keep me remembered at the Meetings of the Geographical Society, as I had hoped to do when I first set out for Ecuador in the service of the Ecuador Land Company. My work has been most arduous in surveying these dense forests of the equator, though my recompense, I am sorry to say, is by no means commensurate. With the exception of a journey through the forest of Quito, I have seen little of the country; being confined to the locality of the Pailon, which presents only one kind of rock, a sort of volcanic conglomerate, consisting principally of a vast bed of volcanic sand or ashes, in which are irregularly embedded stones of various shapes and sizes, up to massive boulders of tons in weight, the whole bearing a striking resemblance to the northern drift. There is, however, one remarkable feature in the formation of the coast of this locality; and, so far as I have been, along the coast of this province: it is a stratum of mould, in which fragments of pottery and articles of gold, and other remains of human work, are found. Over this lies a bed of clay, varying from 5 to 10 feet in thickness. The bed of clay rises above the tide, more or less; but the stratum of mould containing these relics is below that level. I have found it at various points, for a distance of 60 miles; and I believe it might be traced to a much greater distance. In the course of a few months my engagement with the Company terminates; when I shall be able to travel more freely, and to greater distances, and be able again to afford the Geographical Society a paper. Captain Melville White (to whom I entrust this, and who has visited us in this retired locality), has travelled very extensively in these countries, and will most probably afford much geographical information.

"Wishing you good health, I remain, Sir Roderick, your very obedient servant,

"JAMES S. WILSON."

### 13.—*Planispheres*. By the Chevalier IGNAZIO VILLA.

THE Chevalier Ignazio Villa submitted seven planispheres to the Society, accompanied by a printed description, from which the following is extracted:—

No. 1. *Grand Terrestrial Planisphere*.—The northern hemisphere is laid out with radial meridians, the antarctic pole being in the centre. All the earth is thus represented within a single circle; the highest mountains and the active volcanoes are marked on the plan, and elevated at the circumference of the outer circle on the French metrical scale. This planisphere, being made to rotate, exhibits the hour in all countries, and their longitudinal differences in time. Clockwork movement can also be applied, so that one may see the phenomena relative to local times that in the course of twenty-four hours follow each other upon the earth.

No. 2. *Celestial Planisphere*.—This planisphere represents the entire heavens on a single circular plane, indicating all the constellations visible to the naked eye in their angular positions. Round this planisphere there is a girdle, on which is portrayed an epitome of all the countries of the earth; so that they may be found at once in their longitudinal positions. In this system the earth is immoveable, and the celestial planisphere rotates in sidereal time. It shows at a glance the constellation which passes at any moment under any meridian, and places in direct relation all terrestrial and celestial points, as well as the right ascensions and declinations of the latter, and verifies the distances of the moon and stars from the sun. This celestial planisphere will be useful in marine schools and in the study of astronomy; and, when a